



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 064 - Israel Will Call Him King, But God Won't 1 Samuel 10

Israel wanted a leader they could count on. The judges had been fine, but after the judge died and they were left leaderless, their enemies always took advantage of the situation and invaded. The Israelites thought if they always had a strong king they would live in peace and security. The trouble was they never realized the enemies came *because* of their sins of idolatry against God—not because they had no human leader. Had they remained faithful, God would have protected their borders against these enemies (Deuteronomy 28:7, 10).

- Describe some of the problems we bring on ourselves when we neglect God and His Word.
- Israel relied on a king. What kinds of hedges do people rely on as a shield against troubles and misfortunes, which they bring upon themselves in their lives?
- How have you seen God solve these problems or prevent them when you lived in humble repentance and faith?

God rarely forces Himself on people. He permitted Israel to have a king. But God never called that man Israel's king, instead He called him Israel's "prince." He wanted to remind Israel He alone was Israel's true King; He would rule it, protect it, and punish it when it sinned. Like Israel, we often choose to follow another persons' leading—for good or for bad.

- The Fourth Commandment ("Honor your father and your mother") reminds us that God has set leaders over us at home, at church, in government, and at work. How is it helpful to remember that these leaders are *princes* serving under God our *King*?
- How does thinking of Judgment Day remind us that God—not any human leader—is ultimately in charge of our lives?

In Isaiah 9:6 one of the titles given to Jesus is "Prince of Peace." In John's Gospel especially, Jesus frequently reminded Israel He was the Prince serving His Father who was Israel's true King. Jesus told them, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on My own authority. The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of Him whom sent Him is true, and in Him there is no falsehood" (John 7:16-18).

- How does Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane before His suffering and death reinforce our Lord's understanding that He was Prince and not King of Israel?
- How does our Lord's resurrection show God the Father accepted the sacrifice of His Son?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:25-28. How does this show the ascended Jesus' ruling as our Prince under the Kingship of His Heavenly Father?